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RURAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT

newsletter

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MICHIGAN FOREST CO-OP BENEFITS MANY PEOPLE

■ Back in 1940 the rural people around East Tawas, Michigan, with help from their forest ranger, organized a forest products cooperative. They had 20 charter members. The first year they did \$3,000 worth of business. In 1961 they had 187 members and did \$436,000 worth of business.

Recently, that forest ranger, now a deputy chief of the US Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture, received a letter from V. B. Shultz, the manager of the forest co-op. The letter explains how the benefits from this one endeavor have spread and multiplied.

The following are excerpts from Schultz's letter:

"In these past twenty years hundreds of people have benefited by added income from its (co-op) formation. In many cases the added income need was \$50 to a few hundred per year, others have been in the thousands of dollars per year. These needs and amounts have of course increased with the economy.

"There are so many good examples of these benefits that it will be hard to choose. Money for taxes, school clothes, recreation, gaps in regular income, payments on farm machinery and cars have been filled by small amounts of woods products sold. Better homes, inside plumbing, new or good equipment, better education for children, respected cash paying citizens have been the result from larger wood producing families."

JOHNSON COUNTY PEOPLE GENERATE NEW OPPORTUNITIES

■ The people of Johnson County, Tennessee, are demonstrating how they can bring new jobs, new opportunities, and new prosperity to their area. How? By working together, with the assistance of State and federal people -- ARA, County Extension Agent, FHA, SCS, and ASCS people.

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CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS



*We must show the
world what a
free economy can do
... to put unused
capacity to work,
spur new
productivity and
foster higher
economic growth.*

President Kennedy.

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Ag 82*



This then is the story of what this team effort in Johnson County has accomplished so far: Two new factories provide jobs for 350 people, with plans for further expansion; a sheet metal company planning expansion; a pottery company is considering locating in the county. These, when in full operation will employ 600 people with an annual payroll of \$2 million.

There's a new industrial park with space for factories capable of employing 1,200 to 1,400 persons. Other developments in the county include the start of a small watershed project, promotion of an expanded dairy program, the initiation of a ceramic craft operation, and plans for a new high school.

In reporting on the County's progress the leaders of the area gave credit to the Area Redevelopment Program, which served as a catalyst in bringing about the developments. "It provided the incentive for the people to come together as a coordinated group and look at the present situation, discuss the problems and make plans for action." Johnson County is an ARA designated area.

The area's leaders also recognized the many benefits which the programs of the Farmers Home Administration and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service are doing to help the area's economy. For example during the past two years FHA made 16 loans, totaling over \$108,000 in Johnson County. ACP payments of ASCS, totaling \$48,000 were made to 667 farms in the county. The benefits from these programs have a way of pyramiding.

The county's leaders pointed out that valuable assistance was also provided by Extension people who helped them compile the overall economic development plan, which also carried some suggestions offered by the area's USDA technical action panel. The economic plan of the local people of Johnson County which has been the format for their economic development, as well as their accomplishments, resulted from the coordination and efforts of the many people -- local and federal.

NEBRASKA RAD PROJECT PROVIDES TWO-FOLD BENEFITS

■ The Oconto Grange Hunting Plan, which began as an idea two years ago, has become a hunter hospitality program embracing all of Custer County, Nebraska, today. According to the local people, the merits of the plan are two-fold:

It improves the image of the state to non-residents, while swelling the financial coffers of a community.



Darrel J. Johnson of Oconto, member of the Custer Rural Area Development Committee, said: "We launched this program in 1961 to bolster the rural economy of this area." This, the program has accomplished, and much more, too.

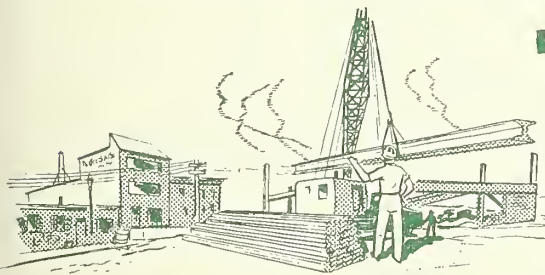
The program operates thus: There are 13 gameland offices in the county, each with a list of people who desire to keep hunters and provide them with lodging, meals, and hunting privileges -- all for \$10 a day. Hunters desiring only to hunt can buy tickets for \$1 which permits them to hunt for one day at a member-farm.

Success? On opening day of the 1962 pheasant season all lodgings and facilities were taxed to the limit by non-resident hunters. Inquiries have come from 25 states.

The Custer RAD committee is convinced there is great potential in recreational promotion for their state. By utilizing an existing resource, like the pheasant crop, the capital expenditure for such a venture is nil. And, the area's residents benefit just by being friendly and making a stranger feel welcome.

The hunter goes home with his full possession of game birds, promising to return next year. The people in Custer want him to, too.

ARA LOAN CREATES 500 NEW JOBS IN RURAL AREA OF WEST VIRGINIA



■ Five hundred direct new jobs will be created as a result of a \$1,320,500 industrial ARA loan to help a forest products company establish a particle board and plywood plant at Sutton, West Virginia. Tree farmers in the surrounding area are also expected to benefit from the loan. Forest Service and REA in the Department

of Agriculture, aided ARA in making a determination of the types and quantities of the area's wood supply, as well as to the feasibility of this project.

Particle board manufacturing, a relatively new industry, is considered to have good growth potential. "Flaking" or breaking down the wood into small particles enables use of 75 to 90 percent of the tree, whereas other processes use only 30 to 40 percent. The particle process also permits utilization of lower quality woods formerly unusable. The end product is marketed as core stock for doors and furniture, sub-flooring and sheathing in the construction industry, and in fixture and cabinet making.

NATIONAL RAD ADVISERS SUPPORT IDEA OF "DOMESTIC PEACE CORPS"

■ Secretary Freeman, speaking before a recent meeting of his National Advisory committee on Rural Areas Development, asked them to consider creation of a domestic peace corps as a means of combating rural poverty. Said the Secretary: "I believe a domestic Peace Corps can be a healthy and dynamic influence in rural areas development."

Before the 34-member group adjourned they passed a resolution supporting the general idea of a "National Service Corps", which could help in rural areas development if it would serve to strengthen and reinforce the work of existing federal public and private groups within the local communities.

SECRETARY ANNOUNCES CROPLAND CONVERSION TEST COUNTIES

■ With authorizations passed by Congress and signed into law by the President under the Food and Agriculture Act of 1962, Secretary Freeman has designated test counties for cropland conversion in the following states: Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Utah and Wisconsin.

Under policies now being developed by USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, in cooperation with other Federal and State agencies, adjustment payments, conservation practice cost-sharing, and technical assistance will be available to assist farmers in these test counties in making the switch from crops to other income-producing and conservation uses.

Agreements with individual farmers and ranchers will be based on farm conservation plans which farmers have developed in cooperation with local soil conservation districts and with technical planning from the Soil Conservation Service. Forest Service and Soil Conservation Service of USDA will be responsible for technical standards and specifications and will provide the technical services needed by farmers in applying conservation measures.

In addition to converting cropland to grass and trees, eligible farmers who agree to take part in the program will also be encouraged to develop income-producing recreation enterprises, water storage facilities, and wildlife habitat on land taken out of production.

CITIZENS OF CALHOUN COUNTY, ILLINOIS PLAN FOR BETTER LIVING

■ Farmers, businessmen, homemakers, electric co-op people -- all are working as a team to improve living and working conditions in Calhoun County, an area nestled between the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers in the western part of Illinois. The local citizens have formed a County Resource Council, designed to pool the county's best ideas toward improving roads, sanitation, health facilities and the general welfare of all residents. August R. Nolte of Hardin, is chairman. The co-op -- Illinois Rural -- is providing technical assistance.



Interest has picked up, and community pride is evident in the county towns and villages and among its 5,933 inhabitants. One person reports that as a result: "Residents are getting better acquainted with each other and with county-wide conditions for the first time." The county has taken its first step toward total rural areas development.